

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

May 30, 2001
Manhattan Public Hearing
Kansas State University
UMB Theater

Members Present

Senator David Adkins, Chairman
Senator Anthony Hensley
Senator Tim Huelskamp
Senator Janis Lee
Senator Ed Pugh
Representative Clay Aurand
Representative Marti Crow
Representative Troy Findley
Representative Doug Mays
Representative Jeff Peterson
Representative Bill Reardon

Other Legislators in Attendance

Senator Derek Schmidt
Senator Mark Taddiken
Representative Deena Horst
Representative Bruce Larkin
Representative Bill Levinson
Representative Rocky Nichols
Representative Vern Osborne
Representative Lloyd Stone

Conferees

Leonard Bloomquist, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and
Social Work, Kansas State University
Ruth Schrum, Citizen

Dan Stanley, Citizen
Mark Schreiber, City of Emporia, Emporia Chamber of Commerce
Glen Gillmore, Flint Hills Task Force on Reapportionment, Chair of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
Tim Bagby, Map Development for the Flint Hills Task Force on Reapportionment
Florence Whitebread, representing the counties of Geary, Pottawatomie, and Riley
Mark Edwards, representing the school districts
Terry Olson, representing the business community of Manhattan
Betty Amos, representing the business community of Junction City
Rick Dystra, representing Junction City Convention and Visitors Bureau
Charles Hostelle, Riley County Republican Party
A. J. John Sajo, Retired Colonel, United States Army
Martha Gray, Chairman, Riley County Democratic Party
Dixie Roberts, Riley County Republican Party
Tim Holverson, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce

Others Attending

See guest list.

Staff Attending

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy O'Neal, Committee Secretary

Chairman David Adkins called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He proceeded to explain that public hearings are the beginning of the redistricting process in Kansas as every ten years states are mandated to redraw Congressional districts; House and Senate legislative districts, and State School Board districts. He further explained census numbers for the Congressional districts are already known.

The numbers for the legislative districts are not known at this time. State law mandates that legislative districts be drawn using adjusted numbers with students and the military reallocated back to their official residence. The adjusted numbers will be available to the Legislature by the Secretary of State on July 31, 2001. Once the adjusted information is received, the legislators can start drawing Legislative and State School Board districts. The history of the process has been that the House will draw the House districts and the Senate will draw the Senate districts. It is the hope of the Redistricting Committee that all maps are pre-filed before the 2002 Legislative Session. If the maps are approved by the Legislature, they will be sent to the Governor for his approval, and then to the state courts for the final approval.

The Chairman informed those at the hearing that the Kansas Legislative Research Department has set up a Kansas Redistricting Web Site which provides numerous amounts of information about the redistricting process, proposed maps, and public hearings. The web site address is <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/ksleg/KLRD/redistr.htm>.

Professor Leonard Bloomquist gave a Power Point presentation (Attachment 1).

- The Census Bureau performed a 100 percent count of the population in the United States in 2000.
- Types of data that are available from the census are:
 - PL 94-171 which contains numbers of race, ethnicity, population over the age of 18, and total population;
 - Mini Profile provides age breakdowns, types of households, and owner vs. rental occupancy; and
 - Summary File contains more information from the short form.
- The Census Bureau produces estimates of population as well as the exact population count. Two examples were: in Barton County the estimated population does not closely model the population count, while in Douglas County the estimates closely matched the actual population.
- In Kansas, Congressional districts currently fall along county boundaries in all except two counties: Marion and Douglas.
- For the first time, since the census has been done, the 2000 Census allowed individuals to choose more than one racial category. The Kansas population shows some diversity, although the population is predominately white (86 percent).
- Kansas experienced a moderate growth rate of 8.5 percent between 1990 and 2000. The United States as a whole experienced a 13.2 percent growth rate.
- The Hispanic population in Kansas showed tremendous growth between 1990 and 2000. The U.S. census data showed a 101.0 percent increase in Hispanic population.
- It is mandated that each Congressional district should have an equal population number. The ideal population for Kansas is 672,105. The 1st Congressional district must gain 34,435 individuals; the 2nd district must gain 30,718 individuals; the 3rd must lose 61,501 individuals; and the 4th

district must lose 3,650 individuals to be in compliance with the “one man one vote” criteria.

- The districts must have “Communities of Interests,” *i.e.*, social, economic, and population factors.
- Congressional districts should have compactness and contiguity.

Professor Bloomquist continued with the presentation concentrating on the 1st Congressional district as to whether Geary and Riley counties should stay together (Attachment 2).

Senator Anthony Hensley and Representative Troy Findley provided the attendees with a proposed Congressional map for the state (Attachment 3). Senator Hensley proceeded to give a Power Point presentation as support of their plan which would place Riley, Geary, and Pottawatomie counties in the 1st Congressional district (Attachment 4).

Ruth Schrum supported Riley County being included in the 1st Congressional district. She believes that the military bases would have more support in Congress if there was a Congressman supporting each base in Kansas (Attachment 5).

Dan Stanley testified that he had received information that the Secretary of Defense is considering supporting additional Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC). Mr. Stanley believes that at every level of BRAC there are politics involved. Finally, he believes that moving Ft. Riley into the 1st Congressional district would enhance its chances of being closed (Attachment 6).

Mark Schreiber would like to keep the current representation in all levels of government.

The following list of conferees are members of the Flint Hills Task Force. Each spoke on a specific subject. See Attachment 7 for written testimony.

- Glen Gillmore informed the Committee that the original concept of the Flint Hills Task Force was to keep Riley, Geary, and Pottawatomie counties in the 2nd District. After further consideration, the Task Force still maintains that position.
- Tim Bagby provided a proposed map to show the Legislature the interest the communities have in keeping the three counties together in their current district. The map splits the City of Lawrence down Iowa street and Kingman and Brown counties.
- Florence Whitebread provided the Committee with a resolution stating that it is important that they continue to be represented on the House Armed Services Committee.

- Mark Edwards touched on the fact that USD 475 serves all students in Ft. Riley and Junction City and many of those who are stationed at Ft. Riley live in Pottawatomie, Riley, or Geary counties and for that reason it is vital that the three counties remain in the same congressional district. Due to the military relationship the current Congressman has they would prefer to continue to be represented by that Congressman. The Task Force would oppose any maps that would separate the three counties or move them from their current representative.

It was pointed out by Representative Crow that sometimes two people representing the same issue is better than one. Mr. Edwards replied that Congressman Ryan has been devoted to the issue and has been "giving it his all." Sometimes too many representatives dilute the quality of the representation.

- Mary Devine commented that Kansas receives approximately \$12-15 million in federal impact aid because of the military presence at Ft. Riley and Ft. Leavenworth. Any change in representation could impact how much aid Kansas receives.
- Terry Olson urged the panel to consider the "communities of interest", such as, Manhattan's economy depends on the strength of Ft. Riley and Kansas State University.
- Betty Amos appeared on behalf of Mike Guinn, Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce. She read his written testimony which supports the three counties staying together and remaining in the 2nd Congressional district.
- Rick Dystra also touched on the "communities of interest" with tourism growing in the three-county area, the historic nature of Ft. Riley and Ft. Leavenworth, the outdoor recreation, and the economic impact that tourism brings to Kansas.
- A. J. John Sajo reminded those in the room that the redistricting process is a political process and encouraged the members of the Committee to consider all the valuable opportunities Ft. Riley offers. He informed the members that between the three counties that the U.S. Army has more than 100,000 acres of land.

Charles Hostelle supported the previous speakers and encouraged the Legislators to keep the three counties together and in the 2nd district. He does not believe that they are "turning their backs" on the 1st district, they just feel that there is more of a community of interest with eastern Kansas.

Martha Gray suggested that the Flint Hills Task Force is a political group that is not representative of the three-county area. She commented that they did not “study” which would be better, to be in the 1st or 2nd Congressional district, they just choose to stay the course. She believes that the three counties have more in common with western Kansas and possibly should be included in the 1st district. She has encouraged the Riley County Democratic Party to do some research before supporting moving or staying where they currently are.

Dixie Roberts testified that there has been equal representation on the Flint Hills Task Force.

Tim Holverson stated that the challenge the Legislature is faced with is great. He does not see the split of the City of Lawrence as an option and suggested that they look at other alternatives. He encouraged the members to consider rural/urban splits instead of splitting towns.

Robert Reece, County Administrator for Pottawatomie County did not appear but provided testimony in support of keeping the three counties together (Attachment 8).

Debbie Nuss, President of Manhattan/Riley County League of Women Voters, provided written testimony which urged the panel to abide by criteria and goals that are set by both the courts when redistricting (Attachment 9).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Prepared by Cindy O’Neal
Edited by Kathie Sparks

Approved by Committee on:

July 12, 2001
(date)